

City of Baraboo  
Parks & Recreation Commission  
March 8, 2021 – Minutes

Present: Roy Franzen, Angela Witczak, Shelley Mordini, Amy Workman, Kathleen Thurow (via phone), Craig Schlender, Jim Francisco and Mike Hardy. Also present: Robert Kappel (Baraboo Soccer Club), Dave and Tyson Kruse (Baraboo Legion Baseball), John Ellington (Alderperson, District 6), Judd Cassidy (Baraboo Amateur Baseball Association), and Rob Nelson (candidate for Mayor).

Franzen called the meeting to order at 5:30pm. Legal posting of the Agenda had been met.

Thurow requested that the Feb. 8 meeting minutes be amended to reflect her opposition to the path of the Great Sauk State Trail passing in front of Circus World Museum. Witczak motioned and Schlender seconded approval of the Feb 8, 2021, minutes as amended. Motion carried.

Witczak moved to approve the agenda as printed, seconded by Francisco. Motion carried.

**Action Items:**

- a. Mike Hardy provided Commission members with a Policy Statement Regarding Park Sponsorships. Discussion and motions related to the policy were tabled until the next meeting to give Commission members time to review the policy.
- b. Each 2021 Co-sponsorship agreement and fee was discussed and voted on separately. Many of the groups last year cancelled their agreements due to Covid-19 restrictions and some requested to apply last year's fee to this year.
  - 1) **Baraboo Amateur Baseball Association:** Witczak moved to approve Co-sponsorship agreement and fee as written, Mordini seconded. Motion carried.
  - 2) **Baraboo Legion Baseball:** Dave and Tyson Kruse were present. Dave Kruse inquired about a seasonal beer license; Hardy directed him to the Administrative Committee to apply. Kruse said for the future, a new concession stand is needed at Mary Rountree. He expressed interest in the next CORP committee meeting and asked that last year's fee be applied to this year. Franzen motioned and Witczak seconded approval of the 2021 Co-sponsorship agreement carrying over fees from last year. Motion carried.
  - 3) **Baraboo Thunder Softball:** No changes were noted to the Co-sponsorship agreement from last year. Application requested waiving the \$1500 fee due to the team financing field 5 construction and installing a batting cage between fields 4 and 5 (no cost to the City of Baraboo). Schlender motioned to approve the Co-sponsorship agreement with the fee waived, Thurow seconded. Motion carried.
  - 4) **Riptide Swim Team:** Hardy noted that the county was advising a plan for a modified opening of Campbell Park Swimming Pool, with a cap of 100-125 participants allowed into the pool for the beginning of the season. The 2021 Co-sponsorship agreement and \$2,000 fee is the same as last year, with the exception of hosting 3 swim meets instead of 4. Schlender motioned to approve, Witczak seconded. Motion carried.
  - 5) **Baraboo Soccer Club:** Robert Kappel was present and said there are currently 150 youth in the program and he expects that number to grow. The current Co-sponsorship agreement for Steinhorst Park includes sharing fields with the Ultimate Frisbee League. Kappel said the groups work well together and noted no conflicts. Schlender noted that if the soccer program grows beyond the capacity to accommodate both teams at Steinhorst, Lower Oschner Park could be an alternative site for one of the groups. Witczak motioned to approve the Co-sponsorship agreement and fee as written, Mordini seconded. Motion carried.
  - 6) **Circus City Derby Dames (Roller Derby):** Hardy stated this group did not have a season or pay the \$1,000 fee for last year, and had not responded to messages left on the 2021 Co-sponsorship agreement. The group traditionally used Pierce Park Pavilion on Tuesday & Thursday nights and

Sunday mornings for practices and games for \$1,000 fee. Franzen tabled discussion and approval until a response is received from the group.

7) **Baraboo Ultimate Frisbee:** The group consists of six teams, using 3 fields with a \$200 fee for field improvement. It is a low maintenance group as the only requirements are to move the soccer goals out of the way for games. Witczak motioned to approve the Co-sponsorship agreement and fee as written, Schlender seconded. Motion carried.

8) **Baraboo Rotary Club:** This group requested using the Oschner Main Park shelter every Wednesday, spring-fall, from 12-1 pm, for a \$500 fee to host their meetings. Francisco motioned to approve the Co-sponsorship agreement and fee as written, Schlender seconded. Motion carried.

c. Hardy shared the results of a survey sent to residents on Weber Park playground equipment designs. The survey received 174 responses. Highlights included:

- A majority reported visited the park 1-4 times, one quarter reported 5 or more times.
- A majority reported having 1-2 kids under the age of 12.
- When asked to rank features in order of importance, highest was elements for ages 2-5, followed by elements for ages 5-12, then ground level elements and climbing features.
- When asked about future park improvements, over 60% want to see more playground equipment in Oschner Park in the next five years.

Hardy shared 3 designs from the Burke company. Hardy noted a concern for designs that include tunnels which has been a problem in other communities and resulted in dangerous vandalism. Mordini motioned to approve the first design ("Burke 1") which included separate elements for ages 2-5 & 5-12, in the red, blue and yellow color design. Francisco seconded. Motion carried.

d. Hardy described a request from a resident to install an asphalt bike/pedestrian entrance path to the west side of Pierce park from Parkside Ave. Hardy indicated the path could be landscaped with signage installed. Schlender suggested a driveway with a post to block most cars that could allow access for utility vehicles. Hardy noted that the property adjacent to the main building might be appraised again and put up for sale. Thurow inquired if money for a path was already in the budget. Hardy said it was not in the budget but could be available if an allocation were requested through Finance. Whether it would be put in this year or next year would depend on the sale of the south side land. Hardy estimated the cost to put in a path at \$6,000-\$8,000. Thurow suggested tabling discussion until an official cost estimate is provided by Hardy.

e. Meetings continue on the Great Sauk State Trail – Baraboo segment between Hardy and various agencies. Hardy said that Pat Kannon, Community Development Director, indicated that economic development funding could possibly be available via TIF (Tax Increment Financing) or the TAP (Transportation Aids Program-WisDOT) grant program. Hardy noted that TAP applications open this fall on a two-year cycle. The CORP plan is expected to include bike friendly recommendations.

*Option 1* - The City Engineer reviewed Water St. options in front of Circus World. A bike lane option could be put in without changing the existing roadway, which would move the bus loading 200 ft from the front door while moving ADA parking 200 ft closer to the entrance. This option would remove street parking. Mordini had previously expressed concerns, but said the visual map helped and she would want to see the "Water Street bike lanes option 1" all the way to Broadway. Hardy indicated he sent the visuals to Circus World Museum but did not receive a response.

*Option 2* - This option routes the GSST through the south side, removing direct access to the downtown. There are hills to work around and it could involve an additional \$1 million in property acquisition. Schlender asked for input from Rob Nelson; Nelson spoke to visual access and the need to be able to see downtown in order to want to explore a business area. Nelson also spoke to the possibility of the bike corridor running south of the river, but noted the difficulty of crossing Broadway.

*Option 3-* This option does not bring the State Trail through town, but allows the Riverwalk to connect to it. Some concerns were expressed of putting lots of bikes on the Riverwalk (pedestrian conflicts). Franzen noted that if maps/brochures were provided at Pierce Park, bikers could find their own way to the Riverwalk without having a designated trail.

f. Alderperson John Ellington spoke to the tradition of past mayors having something named after them. Many positive comments followed from Parks Commission members in support of naming the plaza along the Riverwalk adjacent to City Municipal Building as “Mike Palm Plaza” in recognition of his 9 years of service as Mayor of Baraboo. Ellington indicated that Palm had requested an outdoor area rather than a room inside a building. Ellington suggested holding a formal ceremony after Palm’s term in office ends. Witzak motioned to approve naming the area “Mike Palm Plaza” and the creation of a dedication plaque. Thurow seconded. Motion carried.

g. Workman motioned to approve the Skate Park conceptual plan originally presented at the Feb. 8 meeting. Witzak seconded. Motion carried.

h. The Accola Estate would like to make a gift of \$40,813.97 to the City for Senior Programs and designate up to \$8,500 to replace fitness center equipment with updated equipment designed for more accessible uses. Witzak motioned to accept \$40,813.97 from the Accola estate and use up to \$8,500 to update fitness equipment. Schlender seconded. Motion carried.

i. Mordini motioned to appoint Carla Cross to the Splashpad Advisory Committee, bringing the committee up to 9-members. Witzak seconded. Motion carried.

j. Hardy described the Campbell Park Swimming Pool study and reported speaking to the City Administrator about the time frame to include Campbell Park renovations in the CORP plan. Franzen expressed the need to obtain enough money to fix the mechanicals and shelter. Hardy shared three options from the study. Witzak expressed the need to educate the community more on the extent of the problems and needs, stating that the pool is the second oldest pool in the state (85-years old); the bath houses are in disrepair; and she expressed support for option 2 (\$4 to \$5 million dollar investment). Thurow suggested the formation of a committee to explore options and make recommendations and echoed support for educating the community. Hardy reported that public hearings had been held, but few attended and most did not give input at the meetings. Workman and Mordini both recommended asking the CORP committee to investigate and make recommendations to the Council. Francisco said he planned to introduce the swimming pool issue to the CORP committee on the tour next month and would add it as a topic to the agenda. Witzak asked Hardy to provide details on option 2 for the next meeting.

**Informational Items:** Hardy reported that tentative plans for the upcoming pool season included moving to a punch card system instead of season pass due to the limited occupancy restrictions. Hardy noted that the Recreation & Aquatics Coordinator had submitted resignation and would be leaving two weeks from Friday. The vacancy is posted with an application deadline of April 16.

Witzak reported that the next Splashpad Committee meeting would be jointly held with the Parks & Recreation Commission meeting, and that Parkitecture would be coming to present designs.

Francisco reported that the CORP Committee was a great group of people and their discussions were dovetailing with discussions on this commission. He said the original survey had been revamped to a 37-question survey, and the next CORP meeting would include a tour.

February revenues were \$50,821.77

**Next scheduled meeting:** April 12, 2021 at 5:30 pm

Witzak motioned and Franzen seconded to adjourn at 7:31 pm. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,  
Amy Workman, Secretary, Parks & Recreation Committee